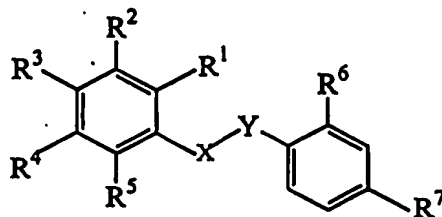


What is claimed is:

1. A compound represented by formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof,

wherein:

R¹ is selected from H, a halogen a C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C₂-C₄ alkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, and a C₂-C₄ optionally substituted with one or more halogens;

R² and R⁴ are each independently selected from H, a halogen, a C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C₂-C₄ alkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C₂-C₄ alkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C₁-C₃ alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a nitro, and NR¹³R¹⁴; or

R¹ and R² taken together form a five to eight-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R¹⁵;

R^3 is selected from H, a halogen, an acyl, a methyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, and a methoxy optionally substituted with one or more halogen; or

R^2 and R^3 taken together form a five to eight-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R^{15} ; or

R^3 and R^4 taken together form a five to eight-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R^{15} ;

R^5 is selected from H, a halogen, a C_1 - C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 - C_6 alkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 - C_6 alkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, C_1 - C_5 alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more halogens, C_1 - C_5 thioalkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 - C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R^{15} , an acyl, a nitro, and a $NR^{16}R^{17}$; or

R^4 and R^5 taken together form a five to eight-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R^{15} ;

R^6 is selected from H, a halogen, a methyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorines and a methoxy;

R^7 is selected from a CH_2OH , CHO , a carboxylic acid, a $(C(R^9)(R^{10}))_nCO_2H$, a $(C(R^9)(R^{10}))_nCO_2(CH_2)_mCH_3$, wherein n is 0, 1, or 2; and m is 0, 1, or 2;

R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from H, F, and OH; or R^9 and R^{10} taken together form an oxygen;

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently selected from H, a C_1 - C_5 alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 - C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 - C_5 alkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, and a carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more halogens; or R^{13} and R^{14} taken together with the nitrogen to which they are each bound to form a five to eight-membered heterocyclic ring;

R^{15} is selected from H, a halogen, NO_2 , a cyano, an acyl, a C_1 - C_3 alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 - C_3 alkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 - C_3 alkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_1 - C_2 alkoxy optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_1 - C_2 thioalkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 thioalkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, and a C_2 thioalkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens;

R^{16} and R^{17} are each independently selected from H, a C_1 - C_5 alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 - C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, C_2 - C_5 alkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, and a carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R^{15} ; and

X and Y are each independently selected from a methylene optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_1 - C_2 alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, a C_2 alkenyl, C_2 alkynyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, O, S, a NR^{18} , and benzyl optionally substituted with one or more fluorines, wherein

if X is methylene, then Y is selected from NR^{18} , O and S;

if Y is methylene, then X is selected from NR^{18} , O and S; and

R^{18} is selected from H, a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl, a $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_5$ alkenyl, and a $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_5$ alkynyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^6 is H; and R^7 is a $\text{C}(\text{R}^9)(\text{R}^{10})\text{CO}_2\text{H}$.
3. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^5 is selected from H, a halogen, a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens, and a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R^{15} .
4. The compound of claim 2, wherein X and Y are each independently selected from methylene and O.
5. The compound of claim 1, wherein:
each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 is independently selected from H, a halogen and CF_3 ;
 R^6 is H; R^7 is a $\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$; and
X and Y are each independently selected from CH_2 , O, and S.
6. The compound of claim 5, wherein X is CH_2 ; and Y is O or S.
7. The compound of claim 6, wherein, Y is O.
8. The compound of claim 5, wherein, not more than three of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 are H.

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein, one of R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 is selected from the group of trifluoromethoxy, alkoxy and phenoxy; and each of the other two of R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 is H.
10. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 taken together form a five to six-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R^{15} .
11. The compound of claim 10, wherein:
- R^3 is H or halogen;
 - R^4 and R^6 are each H;
 - R^5 is H or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl optionally substituted with one or more halogens;
 - R^7 is a CH_2CO_2H ;
 - X is CH_2 ; and Y is O or S.
12. The compound of claim 10, wherein:
- R^3 , R^4 , and R^6 are each H;
 - R^5 is phenyl or acyl;
 - R^7 is a CH_2CO_2H ;
 - X is CH_2 ; and
 - Y is O.
13. The compound of claim 10, wherein:
- R^3 is H or halogen;
 - R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are each H;
 - R^7 is CH_2CO_2H ;
 - X is NR^{18} or O; and
 - Y is CH_2 .

14. The compound of claim 1, wherein:
R³ and R⁴ taken together form a five to six-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R¹⁵.
15. The compound of claim 14, wherein:
R³ and R⁴ taken together form a phenyl ring.
16. The compound of claim 15, wherein:
R¹, R², and R₅ are each H;
R⁶ is selected from H, a halogen, and CH₃;
X is CH₂; and
Y is O.
17. The compound of claim 1, wherein:
R⁴ and R⁵ taken together form a five to six-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more R¹⁵.
18. The compound of claim 17, wherein R⁴ and R⁵ taken together form a phenyl ring.
19. The compound of claim 18, wherein:
R¹ is selected from H, a halogen, and CH₃;
R², R³, and R⁶ are each H;
X is CH₂; and
Y is O.
20. The compound of claim 18, wherein:
R¹ is CH₃;
R², R³, and R⁶ are each H;
X is NR¹⁸ or O; and
Y is CH₂.

21. A compound selected from the group of:

4-(2-phenylbenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 1); 4-[(2-trifluoromethyl)- α -methyl benzyloxy]phenyl acetic acid (Compound 3); 4-(2,5-dichlorobenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 4); 4-(2-chloro-6-fluorobenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 5); 4-(2-chloro-4-fluorobenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 6); 4-(2-fluoro-6-trifluoromethylbenzyloxy) phenyl acetic acid (Compound 7); 4-(2,6-difluorobenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 8); 4-(2-fluoro-4-bromobenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 9); 4-(3-fluorobenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 10); 4-(4-chloro-3-trifluoromethylbenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 11); 4-(1,2,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-methoxybenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 12); 4-(3-phenoxybenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 13); 4-(2-methylbenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 14); 4-(2-trifluoromethoxybenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 15); 4-(2,3,5-trifluorobenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 16); 4-(3-iodobenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 17); 4-(2-naphthalenoxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 18); 4-[1-(2-bromo)naphthalenoxy]phenylacetic acid (Compound 19); 4-(1-naphthalenoxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 20); 4-(2,5-bistrifluoromethylbenzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 21); 4-[1-(2-methyl)naphthalenoxy]phenylacetic acid (Compound 22); 4-(2,4-bistrifluoromethylbenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 23); 4-(4-benzoylbenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 24); 4-[2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethylnaphthyloxy)] phenylacetic acid (Compound 25); 4-[1-(2-methyl)naphthalenemethanethiol]phenyl acetic acid (Compound 26); 4-(4-fluoro-2,3-bezo-1,3-dioxanyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 27); 4-(2-methyl-4-

bromobenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 28); 4-(2-chloro-4-fluorobenzylmercapto)phenylacetic acid (Compound 29); 3-methoxy-4-(2-phenylbenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 30); 3-methoxy-4-(2-naphthalenoxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 31); 4-(2-phenyl)benzylamino phenyl acetic acid (Compound 33); 4-(*N,N*-dibenzylamino)phenylacetic acid (Compound 34); 4-(2-(3-thienyl)benzyloxy)phenyl acetic acid (Compound 37); 4-[2-(5-acetyl-2-thienyl)]benzyloxy phenylacetic acid (Compound 38); 4-[2-(3-nitro)phenylbenzyloxy]phenyl acetic acid (Compound 39); 4-[2-(3-thienyl)-5-fluorobenzyl]phenyl acetic acid (Compound 40); 4-[2-(2-trifluoromethyl)phenylbenzyloxy]phenyl acetic acid (Compound 41); 4-[2-(2-methoxy)phenylbenzyloxy]phenyl acetic acid (Compound 42); 4-[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)benzyloxy]phenylacetic acid (Compound 43); 4-[3-(2,4-difluorophenyl)benzyloxy]phenylacetic acid (Compound 44); 4-(3-pyridylbenzyloxy)phenylacetic acid (Compound 45); 4-[1-(2-phenyl)naphthalenoxy]phenylacetic acid (Compound 46); 4-{{[4-bromo-(2-propan-1-one)]phenyloxy}methyl benzoic acid (Compound 47); 4-(2-acetyl-1-naphtyloxy)methyl benzoic acid (Compound 48); 4-{{[4-bromo-(2-butan-1-one)]phenyloxy}methyl benzoic acid (Compound 49); 4-{{[4-bromo-(2-butan-1-ol)]phenyloxy}methylbenzoic acid (Compound 50); 4-(2-*tert*-butyl-4-methylphenyl)phenyloxymethyl benzoic acid (Compound 51); 4-(2-*tert*-butylphenyloxy)methyl benzoic acid (Compound 52); 4-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1-naphthylamino)methyl benzoic acid (Compound 53); 4-(2-benzoylphenyloxy)methyl benzoic acid (Compound 54); 4-[4-fluoro-(2,3'-methylenedioxy)methyl]methyl benzoic acid (Compound 55); 4-[2-(1-methylpropyl)phenylamino]methyl benzoic acid (Compound 56); 4-(2-*tert*-

butylphenylamino)methyl benzoic acid (Compound 57); 3-chloro-4-(2-naphthylmethoxy)benzoic acid (Compound 58); 3-chloro-4-(2-phenylbenzyl)benzoic acid (Compound 59); 4-(2-trifluoromethylanilinomethyl)benzoic acid (Compound 60); 4-(2,4-bistrifluoromethylbenzyloxy)benzoic acid (Compound 61); 4-[(2-methyl-1-naphthyloxy)methyl]benzoic acid (Compound 63); 4-[(3-*tert*-butyl-5,5-dimethylindanoxy)methyl]benzoic acid (Compound 65); 4-[(2-methyl-1-naphthylamino)methyl]benzoic acid (Compound 68); and *N*-methyl-4-[(2-methyl-1-naphthylamino)methyl]benzoic acid (Compound 70) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides and prodrugs thereof.

22. "A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 1.

23. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 2.

24. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 3.

25. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 4.

26. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 5.

27. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 6.

28. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 7.

29. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 8.
30. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 9.
31. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 10.
32. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 11.
33. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 12.
34. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 13.
35. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 14.
36. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 15.
37. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 16.
38. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 17.
39. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 18.
40. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 19.

41. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 20.
42. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound of claim 21.
43. **Error! Reference source not found..**
44. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
45. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 2.
46. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 3.
47. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical

agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 4.

48. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 5.

49. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 6.

50. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 7.

51. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 8.

52. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular

disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 9.

53. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 10.

54. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.

55. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 12.

56. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13.

57. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 14.

58. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 15.

59. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 16.

60. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 17.

61. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical

agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 18.

62. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 19.

63. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 20.

64. A method of treating a patient having a condition selected from the group of syndrome X, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and dyslipidemia comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical agent comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 21.